

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-05 ARA-10 ACDA-07 EA-10
/089 W

-----078436 131752Z /44

R 131550Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4683

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH

USUN NEW YORK 134

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANJUL 1285/1

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, GA

SUBJ: PRE-32ND UNGA CONSULTATIONS (INCLUDING RESUMED 31ST
UNGA): THE GAMBIA

REF: STATE 205678

1. SUMMARY - ACTING CHARGE REVIEWED FULL RANGE OF REFTEL ISSUES IN LENGTHY MEETING SEPT 12 WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA (GOTG). AT CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSION, SEC GEN REMARKED THAT GOTG HAD NO FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENT WITH ANY OF US POSITIONS OUTLINED TO HIM. HE SAID GAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD USE HIS UNGA ADDRESS TO URGE PARTIES TO RHODESIA DISPUTE TO ACCEPT ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. SEC-GEN SAID THE GAMBIA WOULD ENDORSE CREATION OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND WOULD PARTICULARLY VALUE OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSULTATION WITH US ON UN MANAGEMENT AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS, WITH A VIEW TOWARD ENCOURAGING FINANCIAL RESTRAINT. END SUMMARY.

2. ACTING CHARGE MET SEPT 12 FOR UNGA TOUR D'HORIZON WITH GOTG SECRETARY-GENERAL ERIC CHRISTENSEN. US PRESENTATION WAS BASED ON TALKING POINTS PROVIDED REFTEL, AND CONVERSATION TOUCHED AT LEAST BRIEFLY ON ALL KEY ISSUES WHICH REFTEL SET FORTH. GAMBIAN SAID HIS
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DELEGATION PLANNED NO MAJOR UNILATERAL INITIATIVES. SIGNIFICANT GOTG REACTIONS TO DEMARCHE ARE PROVIDED BELOW:

3. MIDDLE EAST- SEC-GEN AGREED THAT UNGA SHOULD DO NOTHING TO DISTURB PRESENT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH US REACTION TO RECENT ISRAELI ACTIONS CONCERNING SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED AREAS, WHICH GOTG CONSIDERED EXTREMELY

UNHELPFUL. HE WAS PLEASED TO KNOW THAT US CONSULTATIONS WITH AREA FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD CONTINUE DURING UNGA, AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT LEADERSHIP BY MODERATE ARAB STATES SUCH AS EGYPT SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO NEUTRALIZE ANY PROVOCATIVE INITIATIVES BY MORE RADICAL ARABS SUCH AS LIBYA.

4. CYPRUS - CHRISTENSEN CONCURRED THAT TURK-CYPRIOT REPRESENTATION WAS NOT APPROPRIATE IN PLENARY.

5. RHODESIA - GAMBIA FOREIGN MINISTER JABANG WILL TAKE OCCASION OF HIS UNGA ADDRESS TO URGE PARTIES INVOLVED TO IMPLEMENT UK/US SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS (FURTHER DETAILS PROVIDED SEPTTEL).

6. APARTHEID - SEC-GEN SAID GOTG AND US POSITIONS COINCIDED; THE GAMBIA HAD NO INTENTION OF PRESSING FOR CHAPTER VII SANCTIONS. HE VOLUNTEERED CONGRATULATIONS FOR REPORTED US ROLE IN DETERRING SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TEST PLANS.

7. NAMIBIA - CHRISTENSEN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH CONTACT GROUP'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS, WITH WHICH HE APPEARED WELL FAMILIAR. HE FELT OBJECTIVE OF INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS SHOULD BE TO KEEP PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA WITHOUT DISRUPTING CONTACT GROUP'S EFFORTS.

8. DISARMAMENT - CHRISTENSEN EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM OVER
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UTILITY OF SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, BELIEVING THAT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS (SUCH AS US-USSR SALT TALKS) WERE MORE REALISTIC APPROACH. AS REPRESENTATIVE OF NATION WHICH DOES NOT MAINTAIN ARMY, SEC-GEN TOOK SATISFACTION IN US POSITION ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS.

9. PUERTO RICO - ACTING CHARGE REFERRED TO NEWS REPORTS THAT COMMITTEE OF 24 HAS DEFERRED CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO QUESTION TILL NEXT YEAR, BUT RESTATED US POSITION ON ISSUE. SEC-GEN APPEARED INCREDULOUS THAT ANYONE COULD SUGGEST THAT THERE WAS ANY SIGNIFICANT PRO-INDEPENDENCE SENTIMENT IN PUERTO RICO, GIVEN US POLICY AND PAST ELECTION RESULTS.

10. GUAM - SEC-GEN EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR US POSITION; HE FELT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE FOR THIS ISSUE TO BE RAISED AT UNGA.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L FINAL SECTION OF 2 BANJUL 1285/2

11. KOREA - SEC-GEN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT UNGA DEBATE ON KOREA
COULD BE AVOIDED. HE SAID ALL INDICATIONS HE HAD WERE THAT
DPRK WOULD NOT INITIATE RESOLUTION THIS YEAR.

12. HUMAN RIGHTS - NOTING THE GAMBIA'S RECENT PROPOSAL FOR
DESIGNATION OF COMMONWEALTH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS,
SEC-GEN SAID GOTG COULD ALSO BE EXPECTED TO ENDORSE COMPARABLE
POSITION WITHIN UN FRAMEWORK. (ALTHOUGH THE GAMBIA HAS
APPARENTLY INCURRED ENMITY OF SOME AFRICAN STATES FOR ITS
HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES WITHIN COMMONWEALTH, EMBASSY BELIEVES
THAT ITS LEADING ROLE IN THIS AREA COMMEND IT AS NATURAL
POINT OF CONTACT FOR US AND COSTA RICA IN PLANNING TACTICS
ON UN HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL.) HE IMPLIED THAT THE GAMBIA
FULLY UNDERSTOOD US POSITION ON DECADE AGAINST RACISM IN WAKE
OF ZIONISM--AS--RACISM RESOLUTION.

13. UN MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET - CHRISTENSEN EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST
IN THIS GROUP OF ISSUES, TAKING CAREFUL NOTES ON SALARIES,
CONFERENCES AND BUDGET QUESTIONS, AND EXPRESSING DESIRE FOR
CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN OUR DELEGATIONS IN SEEKING TO
IMPOSE RESTRAINT ON UN EXPENDITURES.

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14. ECONOMIC ISSUES - SEC-GEN AGREED THAT UNGAS SHOULD NOT
ATTEMPT TO PREDETERMINE OUTCOME OF NORTH-SOUTH NEGOTIATIONS.
HE SAID HASSUM CEESAY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
HAD ALREADY LEFT FOR NEW YORK AND WOULD RELISH OPPORTUNITY FOR

CONSULTATION WITH US DELEGATION ON FULL RANGE OF NORTH-SOUTH
ISSUES.

15. CONCLUSION - REFLECTING ON POINTS SUMMARIZED ABOVE, CHRISTEN-

SEN SAID HE COULD SEE NO ISSUE ON WHICH THERE WERE ANY
FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES IN US AND GAMBIAN POSITIONS, AND EXPRESSED
HOPE FOR CLOSE CONSULTATION BETWEEN TWO DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK.
INFORMATION ON TRAVEL PLANS AND NEW YORK ADDRESS FOR SEC-GEN
AND FOREIGN MINISTER BEING SUPPLIED SEPTEL.
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